

Subject: INFO-HAMS Digest V89 #883
To: INFO-HAMS@WSMR-SIMTEL20.ARMY.MIL

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Today's Topics:

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Date: 14 Nov 89 22:04:36 GMT
From: mtxinu!sybase!forrest%sybase.com@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU
Subject: 1st Experience with Cushcraft R5 (works great but have TVI/RFI)

I recently decided to bite the bullet after many years of fooling around with vertical antennas with radials. So, I bought a Cushcraft R5. I first checked around the mailorder places for the best price. The range was from \$239 to \$259. The funny thing was almost everybody was out of stock. I instead bought one from a local Ham Radio Outlet store which had a whole bunch. They only charged \$249.

I assembled the antenna without any problems except they had forgotten to put two minor parts in the box. I was able to assemble the antenna without them. The construction looks well done and all the metal looked like stainless steel. I was carefull to measure the spacing between the various sections carefully. Although the instructions weren't the step by step kind you'll find in Heathkits, they were good enough to put the antenna together.

I put the antenna on a standard 10' Radio Shack steel mast and attached some new Belden RG/8 to the antenna. Since my rig is a solid-state Icom IC-730 I first wanted to check the SWR to make sure I wouldn't be transmitting on too high an SWR. Much to my pleasure, the SWR was just about what they claimed it would be in the instructions.

Since there was a JA contest going on last weekend I was able to try out the antenna on some DX right away. I was able to work every JA I heard. Since they always give a 5x9 report I really couldn't tell how well I was doing. Then I heard a KH3 on Johnston Island who was causing a big pileup. There were many very loud stations calling him. Much to my amazement, after giving him several calls, he came back to me. He only gave me a 5x5 but the fact that he heard

me at all with all those big signals made me feel very good.

Then came the bad news. My father-in-law, who lives next door, called to tell me I was getting into his TV. The strange thing was I wasn't interfering with the picture, only the sound. Also strange was the fact that he could still hear me even with the TV turned off. (It turned out that his TV is one of those TV's that are never actually turned off unless they are unplugged in order to keep the picture tube warmed up). He was also able to hear me on his telephone. I tried my TV and heard nothing but I could hear myself on my stereo. I didn't try my phone. I should add that I have the negative side of my power supply connected through some heavy copper wire to a 4' ground rod.

The next working day I called Cushcraft to ask for the missing parts. They right away agreed to send them to me without the slightest hassle. I also described my interference problems to the person I was talking to. He said they've heard that before and that the low angle of radiation of the R5 sometimes causes problems. He recommended that I raise the antenna and also use filters on the TV and phone, something that I will do when I get a chance.

So, to summarize, I'm quite happy with the antenna but concerned about my interference problems. I'd be glad to hear from anyone who might have some advice on how to solve the interference problem.

Anything you read here is my opinion and in no way represents Sybase, Inc.

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Date: 14 Nov 89 21:44:00 GMT
From: ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@iuvax.cs.indiana.edu
Subject: airport security

> repairs, as I work for an ambulance company). At Sacramento Airport, I was
> also asked to place my pager (Motorola Bravo, little display pager) on the belt
> to be X-rayed. This thing is tiny, and I can't imagine anyone fitting a bomb
> into it (I can barely understand how Motorola gets a 900MHz receiver, LCD
> display, speaker, and vibrator in it! ;-).

There are some pretty small guns around.

--Phil Howard, KA9WGN--
<phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>

Date: 14 Nov 89 22:03:00 GMT
From: ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@iuvax.cs.indiana.edu
Subject: airport security, another anecdote

> Rule # 1 let them check the film by hand

DEMAND that they check the film by hand. Refuse to pass until they do.
If you encounter trouble in a foreign country, by all means let EVERYONE
know about it and name the country.

> Rule # 2 It doesn't matter whether the film is exposed or not

But, X-ray exposure does not affect the film the same as leaving it on the
shelf. The effect varies according to how well the film is shielded. The
best shield, unfortunately, is one that can also hide a gun.

> Rule # 3 It effects all film

It effects already processed film much less, though.
One alternative is to process the film before leaving the foreign country.
In Europe, either use a PROFESSIONAL film processor that knows about the
appropriate C-41 or E-6 processing, OR use a European film such as Agfa,
which is still using their own processing chemsitry. In Japan, you are
probably best off using Fuji or other Japanese film as the processing there
is sure to best match that film as opposed to Kodak.

Rule # 4 Never mail unprocessed film home or to a USA lab as it can get
X-rayed that way as well.

--Phil Howard, KA9WGN--
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Date: 14 Nov 89 22:22:00 GMT
From: ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@iuvax.cs.indiana.edu
Subject: customer feedback to manufacturers

> > This includes both expansion of full band coverage where
> > the foreign radio makers failed to know and understand the American radio
> > system and rules, as well as use in driving transverters.
>

> If a company fails to understand the needs of a market, you need not buy
> their product. Or, more constructively, you might tell them what to do.
> The key is to talk directly to the people who design the product.

There are no American manufacturers of a full line of VHF and UHF HT's and mobile rigs. Your suggestion rules out Japanese imports. Like I said in my posting, I do suggest to them what to do, but they just rebut with the excuse that the radios are designed in Japan. I guess I need to call Japan.

While I am disappointed there are no American manufacturers making the ham equipment of this type (Ten-Tec, are you listening, really?), I am not against buying from Japan except for the apparent ignorance of the American market on the part of the Japan designers, which may well be a result of shielding by the American offices who are primarily concerned with marketing issues rather than innovative solutions to problems non-existent in Japan.

> Quite likely. Those Japanese companies may not even listen to retailers
> in Japan. Same thing goes for your favorite brand washing machine. How
> much input you give to your sales rep actually makes it back up to the
> design board? I believe it is much more effective to write to the company
> design team direct, rather than complain to a local office.

I guess I need to call the local office and ask them this. I did that yesterday as a matter of fact for one company, and I could get no further than the head of marketing who said it would do no good. I will try one more time and refuse to explain to them WHY I want to talk to Japan, in hopes that they won't "try" to deal with it locally. If I get the numbers and addresses, I will post them on the newsgroup.

> There is a marketing issue here concerning liability which you may not
> be aware about. I will not go into the details here - suffice it to say
> at this moment that your attitude may well be shrugged off as perfectly
> sound yet so naive that it is senseless for the manufacturer to produce
> a new product line or release modification info.

They have plenty of opportunity to tell me this, and have only mentioned that their concern is being accused of selling non-type-accepted radios into the public service, land mobile, or maritime markets. The concern is valid, but they still recognize a legitimate need for the mods regardless, and fail to recognize other legitimate needs; I call that discrimination.

I could make an issue that since they refuse to give out the info to a limited number of people who understand the type acceptance problem, they are effectively encouraging a "black market" of mods information that is in fact bigger, and lets less legally concerned individuals, including non-hams, have a radio that is operable on public service, land mobile, and maritime bands. If I wanted to make waves, I could do this, but I

will restrain myself.

> I would suggest that you contact the head offices of the companies you
> are dissatisfied with, and let them know of the various radio practices
> you feel they do not understand. They tend to have staff that understand
> English.

You got phone numbers and addresses of the 3 big Japanese Companies?
I'll be happy to call Japan.

--Phil Howard, KA9WGN--
<phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>

Date: 14 Nov 89 23:06:50 GMT
From: cs.utexas.edu!wuarchive!cec1!news@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Scott Eric Keller)
Subject: Nov. SS - A challenge

I would like to pose a challenge to all university-affiliated radio clubs. The challenge is for highest multioperator score in the November Sweepstakes phone contest this weekend. This is strictly for bragging rights and to promote goodwill amongst university radio clubs. I know that many universities participate, since I heard several on last year. W0QEV was able to achieve top multiop score for Missouri. (Well, actually we were the only multiop station in Missouri...)

If you are interested, reply by mail. After the contest, send your final totals (i.e. # of Q's, class, # of multipliers) to me and I will post final standings. This way, we can see the results before April or May.

Good luck & 73,
Scott Keller KA0WCH
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The opinions represented here are mine and mine alone, not Wa\$h. U's.

Date: Tue, 14 Nov 89 21:00:36 EST
From: grogers@Janus.MtRoyal.AB.CA (Gil Rogers)
Subject: Six Metre Band Opening to JA

For all hams who are (or WILL BE) 6m ops: the promised band openings off-continent has started! I logged 8 Japanese QSOs on or about 50.125 from 12-Nov-89 2333Z to 13-Nov-89 0009Z. If you are one of those who dusts off the 6m rig from 1-Apr until 1-Sep - better RE-DUST! The upswing is with us.

For info's sake, I run an Icon IC-575A at 10w PEP out into a 4-el YAGI at about 10m (about 30 feet if you have average-sized feet).

The sigs hit a peak at about S9.

Good dx!

73, Gil VE6GIL Calgary, Alberta Canada

Date: 14 Nov 89 20:36:59 GMT
From: vsi1!daver!lynx!neal@apple.com (Neal Woodall)
Subject: Spy numbers transmissions

In article <16746@dartvax.Dartmouth.EDU> The Anarch writes:
>In article <28978@shemp.CS.UCLA.EDU> Brad Pierce writes:

>>What is Spy Numbers Transmissions?

>..I believe that 'spy numbers transmissions' refers to the seemingly random
>and meaningless strings of numbers that can occasionally be heard on shortwave
>radio. They are believed to be coded intelligence reports of spies in foreign
>countries, sending their info back home over the airwaves.

You are somewhat correct, but I can clarify what you have posted....

The "spy numbers transmissions" are usually classified by the sex of the voice that reads the numbers, the language of the numbers, and the count per "digit group". For instance, some transmissions are a female voice speaking Spanish with 5 digits per group, others may be a male voice speaking English using 4 digits per group.

In the western hemisphere, Spanish and English are the two most commonly heard languages, however there have been some reports of German too. In the Eastern hemisphere, stations are heard in almost every widely used language, including German, Russian, French and Spanish. I think there have been reports of some transmissions in more obscure languages like Polish too.

The "spy numbers" method is not used exclusively by foreign countries...some

dedicated shortwave DX'ers have used direction finding equipment to pinpoint the locations of "spy numbers" transmitters inside the USA....actually near CIA stations in Virginia and in the Florida Keys!

Much has been written concerning analysis of broadcasts by time and frequency, the language used, the number of digits per group, etc. The common consensus seems to be that the broadcasts are used to send instructions to field operatives throughout the world. The intended recipient of the message uses a "one-time pad" to decode the message, thus unauthorized or unintentional decoding is virtually impossible. There is less consensus on whether the sex of the voice, the number of digits per group, and the "clustering" in time and frequency of the transmissions carries any useful intelligence to the field operatives.

One interesting thing: some of the transmissions seem to use a digitally sampled or generated voice! This conclusion drawn by some listeners who did a spectral analysis of the voices used by various stations. The spectral analysis of different instances of the same digit repeated in the same transmission and in subsequent transmissions seemed to indicate that either a human voice had been sampled for the digits 0-9 and the "strung together" by a computer (or perhaps spliced together on a tape if you think in low-tech terms), or that the voice was computer generated via an allophone method.

Most of this info comes from "Popular Communications" magazine.

Neal

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #883
